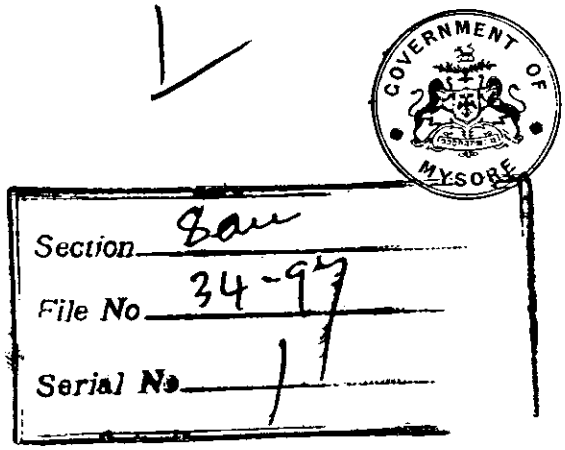
1897

file No 34
B/s - 1

(Sanitary)

Working of the Plague Regulations

Indexed
M. Hossain



Mysore

19th June 1898.

My Dear Friend,

As desired in your D.O. of the 15th instant I send a memo on the question of working the plague regulations.

Special hypodermic syringes for inoculating Haffkine's plague serum have been obtained by Dr. Benson and this fact was intimated to the Resident more than a month ago . A quantity of serum has also been secured.

As regards the collection of materials for building plague camps , orders were some days ago issued to the Deputy Commissioners and Presidents of Municipalities for collecting them at Dt. Head Quarters and in large towns , and these officers were also asked to indent upon the

writing (i.e. letter). Those going by road are escorted by the Taluk Police.

2. Those going to Madras are sent with a form with the Guard to the Inspecting Medical Officer, Perambur. The passengers are sent with a form by me to the Inspecting Medical Officer, City Railway Station.

It was the practice to send telegrams to any Station the passengers wants to go, but it has been discontinued of late. Those that are going by road outside the Mysore Province are escorted by the Taluk Police as far as our limits.

(Sgd) Mahomed Usman

30. 6. 1898

Copy

Forest Department for bamboos etc. to be laid down at the Railway Station

For Mysore, special instructions were issued for both seg-regation and Health camps being put up I inspected the sheds erected on the last occasion near the Eedga, but was not satisfied either with the locality or with the kind of sheds put up . I shall select a proper site in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and Vice President before I leave Mysore.

Yours sincerely,

VP/Madhavdas

3/

Mysore, 19th June 1898

Memorandum.

The first step towards preparing the way for the working of the Plague regulations, which are necessarily of a stringent nature, is to make the people understand that the Regulations are for their own good and that in enforcing them Government are anxious to respect the social and domestic Customs of the people as far as possible, and to endeavour to secure the Cordial Co-operation of the people in all the measures — adopted for the prevention and sup- -pression of the plague —. Every oppor

tunity should

should be taken to explain to the people through the heads of the different communities caste associations and religious institutions, and by means of small pamphlets published in the Vernaculars, what the Plague is, the evils arising from the concealment of cases, the object of the various measures adopted by Government for the suppression of the disease, winding up with an assurance that in carrying out the measures every care would be taken that the social and religious feelings of the people are respected.

2. The Regulations framed for Madras (which have been adopted almost in their integrity in Mysore) provide

provide for every contingency and would work successfully if only the authorities could take the people with them.

3. House to House Visitation

It is towns of large size that offer difficulties for the Plague preventive measures being effectively carried out. When plague is likely to appear in a town, it is desirable that what is called the Supervision System should be introduced in it without loss of time. The System consists in dividing the town into convenient blocks and employing as

as far as possible, Government officials (Hindus or Muhammadans) living within their respective blocks for carrying out daily house to house inspection making a note of arrivals and depar-tures and of any cases of sickness or death. In Bangalore almost all the departments have cordially co-operated with me in lending the services of their officials, the arrange-ment being that the office work of such of the clerks as have to do supervision work in the mornings should be proportionately lightened. The object of employing Government officials belonging to different departments located in the city is to ensure that the supervision

shall

shall be conducted by skilled agency amenable to Government Control and trained to habits of correct observation and record; while, on the other hand, from the fact of the Supervisors living among the people and being well known in the neighbourhood, the agency employed shall have the full confidence of the people. The System should be started early in order that the public may get accustomed to the daily visits of the Supervisors. The Supervisors have over them Superintendents who have charge of a number of blocks and check the work of the Supervisors. The Superintendents are selected from the

the Gazetted officers and Municipal Commissioners and other respectable residents of the City and they also generally live within their circles. The Superintendent also may with advantage be a Hindu or Muhammadan. By this means the authorities will be in a position to secure the earliest possible information regarding the appearance of plague in a town.

4. I need not remark that it will be necessary that nurses trained to the work should be assigned to each ward or Circle to examine female patients in cases of doubt

9

Isolation.

5. People could be easily isolated in their own houses, and this system they are accustomed to in the case of infectious diseases like small pox especially in villages. The system although it is not being strictly observed in later years, is one that the people are familiar with. I allude to the custom of isolating the patient in a separate part of the house and keeping his surroundings clean and sweet On the appearance of small pox in a house, a bunch of Margosa leaves is stuck at the entrance of the house and this serves as a

Signal

signal for onlookers to keep away from the house and avoid contact with the inmates. Not even a beggar would receive alms from such a house. The inmates also avoid all contact with the outside public and keep their persons and clothes clean. All earthen vessels are broken up and thrown away and metal vessels are buried in the earth for some days before they are brought into use again, after the recovery of the patient. Such isolation in their own houses under any restrictions the Government may think necessary to impose, will not be looked upon as a hardship

by

4

by the people. But in the present state of ignorance as to how plague is communicated, isolation by removing the patient to camps outside the town would perhaps be desirable to prevent its spread but no patient should be removed to a camp unless every convenience has been provided there for his treatment and comfort, and also of such of his relatives & friends as may wish to be in attendance on him. The removal should be effected with as little inconvenience to the patient as possible and without violating any of the caste habits & customs of the patient and those in attendance on him and under the supervision of the Superintendent & Supervisor of the ward. The conveyances employed

Should

12

should be such as the people are accustomed to and which from their appearance or shape are not associated with Ambulance carts & dhoolies. The patient should be allowed to be treated by his own hakims & Vydyans; and English treatment should be given only if desired either by the patient or his relatives and guardians. The plague authorities should confine themselves to seeing that the patient & those in attendance on him do not leave the Camp or come in contact with healthy people until discharged under the orders of the Medical Officer in charge.

6. Proper arrangements should be made for guarding the house & effects of the inmates removed to the plague Camp.

7. Disinfection — The disinfection of the house & articles in it should be conducted under the supervision of a responsible officer, if possible the Superintendent of the ward, causing as little damage to property as possible.

8. When articles have to be destroyed or a house dismantled & burnt, any compensation that may be payable should be paid by the Officer responsible or by other thoroughly trustworthy Agency if possible, before the property is destroyed, or immediately after.

9. Detention of passengers — As regards detention no suggestions are necessary as the Government of India rules on the subject and the additional mufassil Regulations of the Madras Government are calculated to meet all requirements. Here also all that is necessary to say is that the

the shed put up should afford
proper protection against both
sun & rain, that careful arrange
-ment should be made for supplies
being available for the persons
detained and that every provi-
-sion should be made for the
disinfection of the persons &
clothing being conducted so as
not to hurt caste susceptibili-
-ties. The system of disinfection
by steam adopted in Hubli
was all that could be desired
and the arrangements also
made for batting for the different
castes were judicious & Consi-
derate. The passengers who
were subjected to the disinfec
tion of both person & clothing
appeared to submit to the
operation with readiness &
without any outward mani
festation of repugnance. The

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

Same remark applies to the system of subjecting passengers to a bath at the Magadi Road Chatram in the Bangalore City I have no improvements to suggest on this point

10. Evacuation of houses & infected areas — can be easily effected provided that the Health Camps are not very far from the town or City & that arrangements could be made in the Camp for the observance of caste & social customs. One essential both as regards isolation of patients & evacuation of houses in infected localities is that the Camp should not be distant from the town

11. In conclusion I may state that the successful working of the Regulations which are all that

could be desired, depends upon the spirit in which they are worked. It must be borne in mind that occasional evasions of the rules will occur in all countries wherever they may be introduced, and that no people will view the Regulations with absolute satisfaction. Hard as the Regulations are, their success depends upon the tact & discretion brought into play by the Subordinate Officers and the sympathy & consideration shewn to those that have to come under their charge. In the present condition of India it is highly desirable that European agency should be restricted to higher supervision the direct dealing with the people

people being left as much as
possible to local native agency.

18

D. O., No.14 P, dated 7th May 1898.

Dear Sir,

Iam directed by Government to forward to you the accompanying pamphlet containing a reprint of the Plague Regulations, and to request that you will be so good as to favour Government with any suggestions you may wish to make regarding methods of carrying the Regulations into effect.

2. I am to instance the measures prescribed under the heads of detention of passengers, evacuation of houses and infected areas, disinfection of person and clothing, and isolation of patients and of persons who have been in contact with them. These measures, the Government believes, are highly necessary for the protection of the population; but there various ways of effecting them, and it is the earnest desire of Government to ascertain such as are most consonant with the ideas, customs and susceptibilities of its Hindu and Muhammadan subjects. And I am likewise to invite suggestions for a method of house to house visitati which may be as free as possible from inconvenience and annoyance to the inhabitants, and may on the other hand call forth their co-operation.

3. It is not desired that this communication should be considered confidential. On the contrary, it is hoped that you and the other gentlemen whom I am addressing will freely consult public

opinion

opinion among its best-known and most trustworthy exponents. In this way Government believes that it will obtain valuable views and suggestions.

Yours truly,

(Signed) H. Tremenheere.

Rao Bahadur P. Chentsal Rao

V. Bashyam Ayengar

P. Rajaratna Mudaliar

S. Subramania Aiyar

N. Subba Rao

C. Jambuliga Mudaliar

S. Paramesvaram Pillai

Sayid Muhammad Sahib Bahadur

Muhammad Sapdar Husain Sahib

Hon. Justice Subramania Aiyar